

Jeroen Johannes Gerardus VAN SOEST et al.

R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed. Following entry of this amendment by substitution of the pages, only claims 1-15 remain pending in this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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July 2, 2001

09669706-100101
FOOT-904960

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step b) i) the hydrophobic phase: water ratio is 80:20 to 20:80, ~~preferably 60:40 to 40:60.~~

4. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ wherein the oil-in-water emulsion contains a surfactant.

6. (Amended) Method according to Claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein step b) ii) comprises raising the temperature of the oil-in-water emulsion until inversion takes place.

7. (Amended) Method according to Claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein step b) ii) comprises the addition of a second surfactant to the oil-in-water emulsion, such that inversion to a water-in-oil emulsion takes place.

8. (Amended) Method according to Claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein step b) ii) comprises the addition of a hydrophobic liquid to the oil-in-water emulsion such that inversion to a water-in-oil emulsion takes place.

11. (Amended) Method according to Claim ~~9 or 10~~, wherein the starch is completely or partially gelatinised before, during or after step b) or c).

12. (Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein the starch consists of partially modified starch.

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13. (Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein the starch content in the first phase is 1-50% (m/m), preferably 5 to 25% (m/m).

14. (Amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein cross-linking is carried out with the aid of a cross-linking agent, which is preferably trisodium trimetaphosphate or epichlorohydrin.